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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

1885.

JANUARY 6, 1885.

Dr. CHAS. SCHAEFFER in the chair.

Twenty-six persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication :—

" On the American Species of the Genus Umbra," by Willis S. Blatchley.

"A Review of the Species of the Genus Semotilus," by Ernest P. Bicknell and Fletcher B. Dresslar.

JANUARY 13.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-four persons present.

On some Parasitic Worms of Birds.—Prof. LEIDY stated that Dr. B. H. Warren, of Westchester, much interested in ornithological pursuits, had submitted to his examination a number of parasitic worms obtained in the preparation of specimens. Recently he had sent to him the carcass of a Snow Bird, *Junco hyemalis*, in which he reported a multitude of worms filling the thoracico-abdominal cavity, and extending into the neck and beneath the skin of the breast and abdomen. From the carcass, seventy-two worms were obtained, of which two-thirds were females ranging from 90 to 120 mm. in length; the rest males, ranging from 40 to 55 mm. From the abdomen of another bird, Dr. Warren obtained five worms, three females from 55 to 90 mm., and two males, 40 and 55 mm. In twenty-two birds examined by Dr. Warren, the parasites were found only in the two indicated. The worms appear to be the *Filaria obtusa* Rudolphi, which infests the *Hirundo rustica*, and other species of European Swallows. The worms of the Snow Bird reach double the length of those of the Swallows, but in other characters agree with the descriptions of *F. obtusa*, as given by Diesing and Dujardin, and also with the figures given by the latter (Hist. Helminthes, pl. iii), except that it is uncertain as to the existence in our specimens of the buccal armature represented by Dujardin. The worms are translucent white, with a chocolate-brown intestine and white uteri and testes. The caudal extremity is obtuse, without appendages, and in the male possesses two spicules, of which the longer curved one is 1·125 mm. long, and the shorter twisted one 0·5 mm. long. The ova, containing developed embryos, are 0·045 mm. long and 0·032 mm. broad.

Six other specimens, apparently also pertaining to *Filaria obtusa*, Dr. Warren obtained from the abdominal cavity partly imbedded in the wall, of a Meadow Lark, *Sturnella magna.* Two are females, 130 and 140 mm. long by 0·625 mm. thick; and four are males, from 50 to 60 mm. long by 0·5 mm. thick.

Six specimens of another *Filaria* were obtained from the abdomen of a female Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon.* The species appears to be the *Filaria physalura* of Bremser, described from specimens obtained from several species of Brazilian Kingfishers. Five of the worms are females, ranging from one foot to one foot and a half in length, and from one to one and a half millimetres in thickness. The head is obtuse, and the body gradually tapers to the tail. The mouth is bounded by a pair of small conical papillæ. The five females measure, respectively, 12, 13, 14, 17, and 18 inches. A single male is 35 mm. long by 0·625 mm. thick. The tail is incurved, ends in a minute blunt cone, and is bialate, with the alæ short and quinquecostate. The length of the alated portion is 0·35 mm. The spicule, partially exserted, is recurved. The specimens, when alive, were pink in color, and exhibited a slender chocolate-brown intestine, with large tortuous white uteri.

From the thoracic cavity of a Gray Snipe, *Gallinago Wilsoni*, Dr. Warren obtained five Flukes, 18 mm. long, by 4 mm. broad. These appear to be *Monostomum mutabile.*

From a Whippoorwill, *Antrostomus vociferus*, Dr. Warren obtained four worms, two females of 18 mm., and two males of 12 mm., which appear to be *Ascaris subulata.*

From the Pileated Woodpecker, *Hylotomus pileatus*, Dr. Warren obtained ten worms, which appear to pertain to the *Spiroptera quadriloba* Rudolphi, the female of which was originally described from specimens found in the Green Woodpecker, *Picus viridis*. The specimens are reported as having been found in the abdominal cavity. Six are females from 9 to 12 mm. long by 0·5 mm. thick, and four males 7 and 8 mm. long by 0·375 mm. thick. Body white, nearly equally attenuated towards both ends; transversely wrinkled, and anteriorly minutely, regularly and sharply annulated; mouth quadrilobate. Tail of female conical subacute; tail of male bialate, sexcostate, end acute; spicules two, the longest 1·5 mm. long, the shortest 0·5 mm. long.

The following were ordered to be printed:—